

27 February 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 26 February 1958

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Cutler, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray,  
Mr. Herter, Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sprague,  
Mr. Staats

1. Letter from Vietnamese Girl

The letter, allegedly from a young girl in Vietnam, addressed to Alfred Friendly, which was published in the Washington Post on Tuesday, February 25, was discussed at some length. Mr. Washburn undertook to secure further information on the source of the letter and, if possible, the motivations behind its dispatch.

2. Airplane Accident

A cable sent from the Naval air element at the Sidi Slimane base to the Navy Department was discussed. The cable reported that four American personnel, and possibly some Arabs, had developed symptoms indicating possible exposure to harmful materials as a result of the accident several weeks ago in which an aircraft loaded with a nuclear weapon had burned. It was recognized by the group that knowledge of this development could have unfortunate results in connection with the recent interest in this subject both here and in Great Britain. Mr. Sprague promised to look into the matter further.

3. Presidential Monograph on Disarmament

In connection with the discussion at the Board meeting of 12 February at which it was decided that a monograph on disarmament should be prepared for Presidential delivery, it was reported that [redacted] has agreed to undertake the drafting of such a paper.

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NAVY review(s) completed.

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#### 4. Reduction of Armed Forces

Mr. Herter referred to the U. S. proposal of 1945 whereby the major powers would reduce the size of their armed forces, under general United Nations supervision. It was recalled that the USSR had vetoed this proposal. Mr. Herter felt that it might be useful to revive the idea and to make a study of all the similar proposals which have been made by the free world since 1945 and which have been vetoed or ignored by the Soviets.

#### 5. Pooling of Scientific Assets for Peace Efforts

Mr. Washburn distributed a memo for the Board members in which specific recommendations were made for implementing the proposal made in the President's State of the Union message regarding a "full-scale cooperative program of science for peace." The recommendations were that the President appoint a small committee headed by Dr. Detlev Bronk, President of the National Academy of Scientists, to head a small group of scientists to carry out the program; that this group, which would include Dr. Killian, visit a number of world capitals, including Moscow, to explore the possibilities; and that something along the lines of an International Congress of Scientists should eventually be convened to develop detailed plans for international scientific cooperation.

Mr. Herter said that Milton Eisenhower and Dr. Bronk had been conferring along lines somewhat similar to the USIA proposal; Mr. Cutler undertook to send a copy of the proposal to Dr. Eisenhower.

#### 6. World Conference of Astrophysicists

The attention of the group was called to a conference of astrophysicists which is scheduled to be held in the Spring in the U. S. A question is raised as to how we should deal with scientists from countries whose governments we do not recognize, such as Red China, North Vietnam, etc. It was agreed that this politico-diplomatic problem might be avoided if it could be clearly stated that the conference had no national overtones but was purely a conclave of scientists, regardless of nationality. The group agreed that it would be desirable to handle the conference in that way, if it were possible to do so.

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7. Weather Control

Mr. Dulles said that the White House is becoming increasingly interested in the possibilities and potentialities for controlling weather. It was recognized that this is a vital subject; the DCI said that he would check with Dr. Waterman, of the National Science Foundation, to see what that organization is doing along these lines.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen W. Dulles'.

ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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